Unorganized Men Work at Top Speed During Strike in Pennsylvania.

UNION TREASURY LOW

Each Side Accuses Other of Breaking Agreement in Bituminous Regions.

BROPHY TELLS OF ISSUES

Right to Organize, Not Nationalization, Main Question, Declares Leader.

This is the first of a series of articles by The New York Herald giving a first hand analysis of the coal strike situation from the outlook of the operators and strikers, both union and non-union. union and non-union. The second article will appear in an early issue.

during coal—an island in the sea of unionism—looked like. Unfortunately he cannot make this report, for the following reason:

He approached Vintondale from Twin Rocks, over a road so rough as to account for much of the prosperity of manufacturers of automobile tires. The party consisted of three newspaper men and the driver, whose car had been hired in Cresson. That the coke ovens of Vintondale were going full tilt was indicated by pillars of black smoke rising from the valley. Natives met on the way told him the road was county owned all the way through Vintondale. But at the edge of the mining town two automobiles, turned nose to nose across the highway, barred him. In front of them was a reception committee, consisting of three uniformed men on horse-hack, another afoot, and three civilians afoot. The troopers were slick uniforms of dark gray whipcord and sombrenes with chin straps. They also were cartridge belts, full of 23s, bulging at the hip. They held up their right hands like city traffic cops and moved toward the correspondent as he approached.

A civilian who seemed to be in charge also held up his hand. He was a round

proached... A civilian who seemed to be in charge also held up his hand. He was a round faced man with a dark slouch hat. One of his two civilian helpers was arrayed in a piaid mackinaw. After the cogressondent stopped two other men joined them. Even if some thoughtless soul had driven through this human barricade the automobile dam would have stepped him, for it was wedged between an embankment and a house on one side of the road and the edge of a gully on the other.

Man of Few Words.

Man of Few Words.

The civilian boss was a man of few words. "You'll have to turn back." he said. The visitors explained they were correspondents, not organizers. The boss's smile was wholly skeptical.

"Isn't this a public highway." one of the tourists asked. "It is private," said the boss. "It's blocked. You can't get through." he added.

"It's a public highway, and I should like to inquire by what right we are stopped," said the other.

"I tell you it's blocked, and the best thing you can do is turn right round and get out," said the boss.

"There are three gangs just like this, he hald, waving toward his army of

Nine Out of Ten in Favor of Coal Commission

BELIEVING the public has been neglected as to the true state of the coal situation the Committee of Forty-eight's national bureau of in crnation and education has under aken an impartial survey and is making a study of the subject with the view of publishing the unbiased facts.

A questionnaire on the desirability of a coal commission sent to a large number of citizens has shown that 90 out of 100 are in favor of a coal commission. J. A. H. Hopkins, executive chairman of the Committee of Forty-eight, has gone to the coal fields to obtain first hand information hand information

The anthracite wage scale con-ference, which is trying to bring the hard coal miners and operators into agreement, will resume its de-

three cavairymen and five infantrymen now assembled. "And if you think of trying it at night there are six of these." He pointed to a large, new searchlight which was mounted on the bank above

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iong strike. The six weeks' strike of 1919 consumed their savings.

The business depression of last year, reducing them to well under 200 working days—the union says that the union men of 364 central Pennsylvania mines in 1921 averaged only 122 days, or two and one-third days' work a week—made saving impossible except in exceptional cases. Town industries, to which many miners have flocked during other strike periods, cannot accommodate them under present business conditions.

present business conditions.

Local union treasuries are low. This being the case, union leaders admit that in the second month this will become "a strike of desperation."

Offers of operators, now falling on deaf ears, will at least find lodgment in the minds of the miners.

Here and there actual hunger will begin to be felt. Here and there miners' families will have to shift for them-selves, communal funds having been exhausted. Here and there a crowd of selves, communal funds having been exhausted. Here and there a crowd of miners will cave in and go back to work. The real test of the mine workers' organization then will begin. 'Hold out for good wages or go back to work at starvation wages" is the traditional plea hammered home in every union mining town. How effective it will be in the face of actual poverty in the homes and of the attractive offers the operators will be making remains to be seen. The test has not arrived. The strike is only in its first stage. At present the striking miners are temporarily flush, for only last week, on April 15, they were paid off for their last two weeks of work, the last half of March. In one small town which this writer visited yesterday, Ehrenfeldt, Cambria county, \$50,000 thus was distributed by the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Company. Ehrenfeldt is a good sample of mining towns of the better class among those built many years ago, but does not compare with some of the newer places as to living conditions. It does boast of a large clubhouse, operated by the miners under the name of the Ehrenfeldt Civic Association. When we visited it not more than a dozen persons were making use of its bowling alleys and pool tables and attractive ice cream lunch room. The usual explanation, "Gone fishing," was given.

is per cent, and the union men 64 per content of the district of the district

well understood on both side when the agreement was made that a meeting of union and operators this year and a continuance of work for at least thirty days was contingent, as always heretofore, upon an agreement being made in the central competitive field, and the fallure to negotiate in that field nullified Rule 25. This is the explanation he gave the correspondent of The New York Herald for day. He also charges the operators with having themselves smashed the agreement by posting notices of wage reductions effective April 1. The operators reply that these notices were posted on March 31 only after the union had kicked over the compact by refusing to meet them, and there you are!

Although each side accuses the other of breaking the agreement, neither has attempted to settle the point in court. The United Mine Workers are not incorporated, and the operators say it would be futile to bring suit against them.

Leader Brophy stands out in the public mind as a leading advocate of nationalizing the coal mines. In the preeent crisis he is soft pedalling this issue.

"It is not an immediate issue," he told the writer. "The immediate question to be settled is the right of the miners to organize non-union miners. Nationalization is an ideal to work towards."

COAL MINERS SAY STRIKE IS 'NORMAL'

80,000 Have Quit Work; 25,-000 More to Follow.

nand, rather than strike conditions,

LAWRENCE VOTES DOWN GENERAL STRIKE IDEA Resolutions Favor Day's Pay to Those Already Out.

relief fund.

At a meeting of the one big union on the common Ben Legere read notices which he said had been received by several strikers from their landlords ordering them to vacate because their rent had not been paid. He said his erganization would fight these cases.

If this agreement had been kept union miners of central Pennsylvania would not now be on strike. It was a case with them of violating the agreement or disregarding the general strike, and they chose to do the former. Brophy denies

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Treason, Murder and Conspiracy Head List of Charges in West Virginia.

COURT HOUSE IS HISTORIC

John Brown, Abolitionist, Sentenced to Die in Charles Town Building.

CHARLES TOWN, W. Va., April 23 .reason, murder and conspiracy head a west, are to seek the facts on disorders

17. among the most prominent. In the indictment it is alleged that the defendants raised an army and waged war against the State of West Virginis in an attempt to overthrow the martial law in force in Mingo county, on the other side of Logan, and toward which the march was said to be directed.

It is a coincidence that another famous treason trial was held in the same court house in Charles Town, that of John Brown, the abolitionist, who was found guilty after his raid on the governmental arsenal at Harper's Ferry, five miles away, had failed. The building has been remodelled since that famous trial in 1859, but although the court room is now on the second floor, while then it was on the first, and the interior has otherwise been changed, the walls are the same which heard the ringing denunciations and defenses of the famous anti-slavery fighter.

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